

WESTERN HEMLOCK-INCENSE-CEDAR/SALAL

Tsuga heterophylla-Calocedrus decurrens/Gaultheria shallon

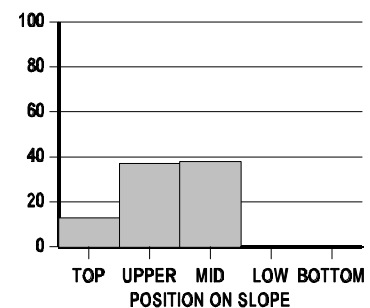
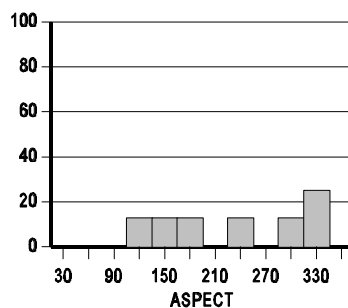
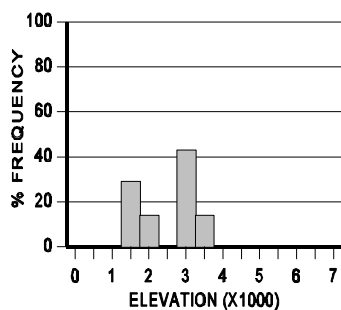
TSHE-CADE27/GASH (N=7; BLM=7)



Distribution. This Association occurs on the Medford District, Bureau of Land Management and may be present on adjacent Forest Service lands.

Distinguishing Characteristics. The presence of both salal and incense-cedar, and absence of Pacific rhododendron, characterize this Association. Whipplevine occurrence suggests rocky soil, yet the relatively high cover of western sword-fern indicates moist conditions.

Soils. Parent materials include metasediments, metavolcanics, and andesite. Based on six plots sampled, soils are well drained to moderately well drained. Textures are silty loams, sandy loams, and silty clays, with 15 to 45 percent rock fragments.



Environment. This Association averages 2760 feet in elevation and occurs predominantly on east, south, and west aspects. Slopes average 39 percent and ranges from 12 to 89 percent. This Association occurs mostly on middle to upper slopes.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness is low for the Series, averaging 25. The tree layer is dominated by Douglas-fir. Incense-cedar is present and may be abundant, while western hemlock cover is often low. Golden chinquapin is commonly encountered. The shrub layer is often dominated by salal, although occasionally it is not present. Dwarf Oregongrape and baldhip rose are frequent, and Pacific blackberry is common. Western twinflower is present in the herb/grass layer, and western sword-fern, white inside-out-flower, and whipplevine are common.

Stratification of tree and shrub layer covers differs in this Association (refer to Methods section). Total tree cover averages 74 percent, and cover of trees less than 10 feet (3 meters) tall averages 16 percent. Shrubs greater than 20 inches tall (50 centimeters) averages 18 percent cover and shrubs less than 20 inches tall average 38 percent cover. Total herb/grass cover averages 33 percent and ranges between 10 and 70 percent.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				5
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	20	
Western hemlock	TSHE	83	5	
Incense-cedar	CADE27	67	30	
<u>Understory trees</u>				5
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	5	
Incense-cedar	CADE27	100	5	
Western hemlock	TSHE	100	4	
<u>Shrubs</u>				7
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	100	6	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	86	2	
Salal	GASH	71	61	
Pacific blackberry	RUUR	71	1	
Creambush ocean-spray	HODI	57	2	
Red huckleberry	VAPA	57	2	
<u>Herbs</u>				13
Western twinflower	LIBOL	100	3	
Western sword-fern	POMU	71	24	
Whipplevine	WHMO	71	4	
White inside-out-flower	VAHE	71	2	
Trail plant, Pathfinder	ADBI	71	1	
Threeleaf anemone	ANDE3	57	1	
Oregon fairybells	DIHOO	57	1	
Fragrant bedstraw	GATR3	57	1	
White-flowered hawkweed	HIAL2	57	1	
Snow-queen	SYRE	57	1	
Western starflower	TRLA6	57	1	
White trillium	TROV2	57	1	